



USDA – National
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Service, Tennessee
Field Office

Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin



Cooperating with
Tennessee Department
of Agriculture

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Week Ending May 14, 2006

COOL, WET CONDITIONS HAMPER FARMING ACTIVITIES

Cool, wet conditions across the State hampered plant growth and most field activities last week. The recent weather was having a limiting effect on the growth of already planted warm season crops and the quality of cool season hay. Cotton planting continued to lag considerably behind schedule and now stands over 10 days behind the normal pace. Additionally, as a result of the weather delays, corn and soybean planting progress fell behind the previous year and the five-year average. Virtually all of the State’s wheat crop was heading and rated in mostly good-to-excellent condition. Tobacco growers were transplanting at a pace about 5 days behind the normal schedule. There were a few reports of increased disease in float bed systems including stalk rot, pythium, and collar rot. The State’s hay farmers made minimal progress with their first cuttings and were concerned that the crop was moving past the prime harvest stage. As an alternative, some hay was being stored as green chop.

There were 2 days suitable for fieldwork last week. As of Friday, topsoil moisture levels were rated 2 percent short, 59 percent adequate, and 39 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 8 percent short, 69 percent adequate, and 23 percent surplus. Temperatures across the State last week averaged around 4 degrees below normal. Rainfall averaged slightly below normal across most of the State last week, but slightly above normal across the western sections.

CROP PROGRESS: Through May 14, 2006					CONDITION: On May 12, 2006					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	2005	Five Year Avg.	Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					Percent					
Corn Planted	93	92	96	95	Hay	2	8	32	49	9
Corn Emerged	87	84	78	86	Pastures	1	4	22	60	13
Cotton Planted	29	17	66	55	Winter Wheat	1	5	18	55	21
Hay 1 st Cutting	12	8	28	22						
Soybeans Planted	18	13	28	19						
Soybeans Emerged	10	n/a	8	6						
Tobacco Transplanted	11	5	22	18						
Winter Wheat – Headed	98	93	91	92						

n/a = not available

County Agent Comments

“Wet, Wet, Wet. Because of excessive rains and wet conditions, corn top-dressing has been delayed resulting in yellow and stressed corn. Bean planting has fallen behind and what few beans that are planted are struggling.”
Tim Smith, Obion County

“Continued wet weather has halted almost all field activity. Producers have applied corn post-emerge herbicides when the weather allows a few hours of rain-free periods. Everything is on hold for now. Hay producers can’t get enough sunny days strung together to get hay cut and cured before the next wave of moisture hits.”
Jeff Lannom, Weakley County

“Since last Wednesday we have had nearly 4” of rain, so little or no progress has been made planting. Hay crop of fescue and orchard grass is headed out and mature, but we can’t get weather for hay cutting.”
Rick Ritter, Perry County

“Some wheat lodged due to wind and rain. Hay headed and past prime cutting stage but rain prevented cutting. Some put up as green chop.”
David K. Glover, Smith County

“For wheat, cool temps are ideal for grain production, but the crop would prefer a little drier conditions. The crop is developing on schedule. Most of the problems with this crop go back to dry conditions in the fall.”
Ed Burns, Franklin County

TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION										
For week ending: May 14, 2006 (with comparisons)										
LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION				GDD BASE 60F Since April 1	
	Week Ending May 14, 2006				Current Week 05/14/06	Rain Days	Current Since January 1	Departure From Normal		
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN					Total	DFN
Ames_Plantation	81	48	63	-5	1.78	2	22.40	0.48	313	100
Tri-City_RGNL_A	79	41	58	-5	1.09	4	15.75	0.36	120	53
Brownsville_TN	80	49	63	-5	1.34	2	22.75	0.92	323	197
Chattanooga/Lov	77	45	63	-3	1.21	5	17.13	-4.95	285	142
Clarksville_Sew	76	46	61	-4	1.42	4	18.13	-1.94	243	96
Cookeville	75	42	59	-5	0.75	3	22.05	-0.12	150	104
Covington	81	48	63	-5	1.84	2	21.60	-0.19	277	93
Crossville_AP	71	44	58	-4	0.64	4	21.18	-1.03	155	84
Dayton	76	43	61	-5	0.35	4	18.31	-4.67	175	56
Dickson_AG	75	41	58	-8	0.88	4	19.14	-2.28	201	47
Dover_1W	76	45	60	-4	1.07	3	17.88	-3.11	214	99
Dyersburg	79	46	63	-6	1.06	2	18.89	-0.86	331	116
Erwin_1W	82	41	59	-2	1.30	4	19.21	1.64	119	16
Huntingdon_Wate	78	47	61	-5	0.97	2	18.33	-2.47	254	129
Jackson_Exp_Stn	79	44	63	-5	0.72	2	21.12	0.20	302	130
Kingston_AG	78	44	61	-2	0.93	4	22.21	-0.83	188	105
Knoxville_AP	77	48	63	-2	0.33	4	17.80	-1.06	235	130
Lewisburg	79	44	60	-5	0.95	3	20.35	-1.51	232	123
Lexington_TN	78	45	60	-6	0.65	2	19.22	-0.96	249	198
Linden	79	44	61	-4	1.14	3	21.36	-1.04	230	100
Martin	77	46	62	-5	0.59	3	21.38	0.86	231	83
Mc_Minnville_Tn	76	46	62	-4	0.44	4	23.59	2.41	250	60
Memphis_AG	81	48	64	-7	1.83	2	23.98	2.61	336	74
Milan	79	45	62	-4	0.80	2	19.57	-1.48	272	124
Murfreesboro_5N	79	47	62	-4	0.46	3	23.40	2.68	245	23
Nashville_Metro	77	46	62	-6	1.15	3	18.54	-0.32	298	135
Newcomb	75	40	59	-2	0.57	4	18.93	-1.77	121	73
Oneida	74	43	58	-2	0.54	4	18.95	-1.75	127	-25
Portland_TN	75	46	59	-6	1.16	4	17.67	-2.31	183	80
Pulaski_Water_P	78	44	60	-7	1.05	5	21.90	-0.27	229	51
Savannah_6SW	81	48	63	-5	1.35	3	23.76	0.17	295	158
Sparta_TN	77	45	62	-3	0.54	4	25.30	3.68	218	128
Springfield	75	43	58	-6	1.40	4	21.29	1.91	166	65
Springhill	79	42	60	-4	0.78	4	22.80	0.52	224	116
Union_City	77	46	60	-6	1.06	3	22.00	1.77	210	71
Waynesboro_TN	78	45	60	-5	0.86	4	24.91	1.15	216	61

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period). GDD = Growing Degree Days.
 Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more. Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
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